

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

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BILL: SB 856

INTRODUCER: Senator Montford

SUBJECT: High School Graduation Requirements

DATE: January 29, 2018

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Olenick	Graf	ED	<b>Favorable</b>
2.			AED	
3.			AP	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 856 authorizes students to use apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program credit to meet specified credit requirements for high school graduation. Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes a student who earns credit upon completion of an apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program registered with the Department of Education to use such credit to meet the credit requirements for:
  - Fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts; or
  - Electives.
- Requires the State Board of Education to approve and identify in the Course Code Directory the apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs from which a student may use earned credit to meet the specified credit requirements for high school graduation.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.

**II. Present Situation:**

Florida law specifies the requirements for public school students to graduate from high school with a standard diploma.<sup>1</sup>

**Florida High School Graduation Requirements**

Receipt of a standard high school diploma requires successful completion of 24 credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, or an Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum.<sup>2</sup> The required credits may be earned through equivalent, applied, or integrated

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1003.4282, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at (1)(a).

courses or career education courses,<sup>3</sup> including work-related internships approved by the State Board of Education and identified in the course code directory.<sup>4</sup>

### ***Credit Requirements***

To graduate from high school with a standard high school diploma, a student must successfully complete 24 credits in the following subject areas:<sup>5</sup>

- Four credits in English Language Arts (ELA) I, II, III, and IV.
- Four credits in mathematics including one credit each in Algebra I and Geometry. Industry certifications earned by students may substitute for up to two mathematics credits, except for Algebra I and Geometry.
- Three credits in science including one credit in Biology I and two credits in equally rigorous courses. Industry certifications earned by students may substitute for one science credit, except for Biology I.
- Three credits in social studies including one credit each in United States History and World History; one-half credit in economics, which must include financial literacy; and one-half credit in United States Government.
- One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts.
- One credit in physical education.
- Eight credits in electives.

At least one course within the required 24 credits must be completed through online learning.<sup>6</sup>

### **Career Education**

Participation in career education courses engages students in their high school education, increases academic achievement, enhances employability, and increases postsecondary success.<sup>7</sup> Florida law<sup>8</sup> requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop, for approval by the State Board of Education (SBE), career education courses or a series of courses that meet the specified requirements in law<sup>9</sup> and allow students to earn credit in both the career education course and courses required for high school graduation.<sup>10</sup> It is the responsibility of the SBE to determine if sufficient academic standards are covered to warrant the award of the academic credit.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Career education means education that provides instruction for purposes specified in law such as providing information to students about a broad range of occupations to assist students in preparing their academic and occupational plans, effectively enter an occupation, or advance within an occupation. Section 1003.01(4), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1003.4282(1)(b), F.S. The Course Code Directory (CCD) is the listing of all public preK-12 courses available for use by school districts. Programs and courses which are funded through the Florida Education Finance Program and courses or programs for which students may earn credit toward high school graduation must be listed in the CCD. The CCD maintains course listings for administration and service assignments, K-12 education, exceptional student education, career and technical education, and adult education, with details regarding appropriate teacher certification levels. The CCD provides for course information to schools, districts, and the state. Rule 6A-1.09441, F.A.C.

<sup>5</sup> Section 1003.4282(3), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at (4).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at (8).

<sup>8</sup> Section 1003.4282(8), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Sections 1003.493(2), (4), and (5) and 1003.4282, F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section 1003.4282(8)(a), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at (8)(a)(1), F.S.

Career and professional academies<sup>12</sup> are required to initiate partnerships with local workforce boards, local businesses, industry, and postsecondary institutions for the purpose of creating career education courses or a series of courses.<sup>13</sup>

Career education courses must include workforce and digital literacy skills and the integration of required course content with practical applications and designated rigorous coursework that results in one or more industry certifications or clearly articulated credit or advanced standing in a 2-year or 4-year certificate or degree program, which may include high school junior and senior year work-related internships or apprenticeships.<sup>14</sup>

### **Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Programs**

An apprenticeship program is an organized course of instruction, registered and approved by the DOE,<sup>15</sup> which contains all terms and conditions for the qualifications, recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices<sup>16</sup> including such matters as the requirements for a written apprenticeship agreement.<sup>17</sup>

The DOE is responsible for administering, facilitating, and supervising registered apprenticeship programs, including, but not limited to:<sup>18</sup>

- Developing and encouraging apprenticeship programs.
- Cooperating with and assisting apprenticeship sponsors to develop apprenticeship standards and training requirements.
- Monitoring registered apprenticeship programs.
- Investigating complaints regarding failure to meet the standards established by the DOE.
- Canceling registration of programs that fail to comply with DOE standards and policies.

<sup>12</sup> A “career and professional academy” is a research-based program that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum with an industry-specific curriculum aligned directly to priority workforce needs established by the local workforce development board or the Department of Economic Opportunity. Career and professional academies shall be offered by public schools and school districts. The Florida Virtual School is encouraged to develop and offer rigorous career and professional courses as appropriate. Students completing career and professional academy programs must receive a standard high school diploma, the highest available industry certification, and opportunities to earn postsecondary credit if the academy partners with a postsecondary institution approved to operate in the state. Section 1003.493(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at (4)(b).

<sup>14</sup> Section 1003.4282(8)(a)2, F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Registration of an apprenticeship program means acceptance and recording of such program by the Department as meeting the basic standards and requirements of the Department for approval of such program. Approval is evidenced by a certificate or other written indicia. Rule 6A-23.002(18), F.A.C. Eligibility and requirements for registration are established in State Board of Education rule. Rule 6A-23.003, F.A.C.

<sup>16</sup> An “apprentice” means “a person at least 16 years of age who is engaged in learning a recognized skilled trade through actual work experience under the supervision of journeyman craftsmen, which training should be combined with properly coordinated studies of technical and supplementary subjects, and who has entered into a written agreement, which may be cited as an apprentice agreement, with a registered apprenticeship sponsor who may be either an employer, an association of employers, or a local joint apprenticeship committee.” Section 446.021(2), F.S. A “journeyman means” “a person working in an apprenticeable occupation who has successfully completed a registered apprenticeship program or who has worked the number of years required by established industry practices for the particular trade or occupation.” Section 446.021(4), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 446.021(6), F.S. An apprenticeship agreement may not operate to invalidate any apprenticeship provision in a collective agreement between employers and employees which establishes higher apprenticeship standards. Section 446.081(1), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> Section 446.041, F.S.

To be eligible for an apprenticeship program, the person must be at least 16 years of age.<sup>19</sup> Admission requirements related education, physical ability, work experience and other criteria vary based on the program's training needs.<sup>20</sup> As of January 2018, there are 196 registered apprenticeship programs and 12,468 registered apprentices.<sup>21</sup>

A preapprenticeship program is an organized course of instruction in the public school system or elsewhere, which is designed to prepare a person 16 years of age or older to become an apprentice<sup>22</sup> and is approved by and registered with the DOE and sponsored by a registered apprenticeship program.<sup>23</sup>

The DOE, under regulations established by the State Board of Education, may administer the provisions in law<sup>24</sup> which relate to preapprenticeship programs in cooperation with district school boards and community college district boards of trustees.<sup>25</sup> District school boards, community college district boards of trustees, and registered program sponsors must cooperate in developing and establishing programs that include career instruction and general education courses required to obtain a high school diploma.<sup>26</sup>

Additionally, the DOE, district school boards, and FCS institution boards of trustees must work together with existing apprenticeship programs so that individuals completing preapprenticeship programs may be able to receive credit towards completing registered apprenticeship programs.<sup>27</sup>

According to the DOE, there are six one credit preapprenticeship courses, which are counted as electives for graduation purposes.<sup>28</sup> As of September 2017 there are 19 preapprenticeship programs located throughout the state.<sup>29</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 856 authorizes students to use apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program credit to meet specified credit requirements for high school graduation. Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes a student who earns credit upon completion of an apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program registered with the Department of Education to use such credit to meet the credit requirements for:
  - Fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts; or
  - Electives.

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<sup>19</sup> Section 446.021(2), F.S.

<sup>20</sup> United State Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, *Apprentices*, <https://www.doleta.gov/oa/apprenticeship.cfm> (last visited Jan. 26, 2018).

<sup>21</sup> Email, Florida Department of Education (Jan. 5, 2018).

<sup>22</sup> A "preapprentice" means any person 16 years of age or over engaged in any course of instruction in the public school system or elsewhere, which course is registered as a preapprenticeship program with the department. Section 446.021(1), F.S.

<sup>23</sup> Section 446.021(5), F.S.

<sup>24</sup> Sections 446.011-446.092, F.S.

<sup>25</sup> Section 446.052(2), F.S.

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> Section 446.052(3), F.S.

<sup>28</sup> Telephone Interview with staff, Department of Education (Jan. 25, 2018)

<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

- Requires the State Board of Education to approve and identify in the Course Code Directory the apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs from which a student may use earned credit to meet the specified credit requirements for high school graduation.

The bill may promote student participation in apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, which may help participating students acquire the skills and training needed to enter the workforce. However, it is unclear how many credits may be generated upon students' completion of apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, and how many of such credits may be applied toward fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts; or electives.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

#### **VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

#### **VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 1003.4282 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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